

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

REVISION TO AGENDA ITEM #7 - PUBLIC GUARDIAN OPERATIONS

The population of Los Angeles County is expected to rise by approximately 10%, to 11 million by 2010. In addition, due to demography as well as improved nutrition, healthcare, and new medications, our population is rapidly aging. This aging of our population will create the need for significant changes in our County service delivery system.

The Department of Mental Health, which is responsible for Public Guardianship cases, recently convened an Older Adult/Probate Task Force to address the expected increase in their LPS and Probate conservatorship caseloads over the next several years. Their report and recommendations identified several staffing and procedural issues that warrant additional analysis. The Public Guardian currently has a staff of 101 full-time positions. Of these, 27 are assigned to work in Probate (older adult) Conservatorship, while 74 work in LPS (mental health) Conservatorship. Of the 27 positions budgeted against Probate (16 FTE's), only four are assigned to Investigations, resulting in a lack of ability to respond to referrals. There is concern whether the resources currently allocated to conduct the work of Probate Conservatorship is sufficient and is being used efficiently.

This recent report should be used as a starting point for a review of the Probate functions undertaken by the Public Guardian. However, there is a need to assure the Probate activities are operating efficiently and effectively before we address future growth with additional resources. Also, there may be a legal question on the use of mental health/realignment funds for the Probate program.

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MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board direct the Chief Administrative Officer and Auditor-Controller to conduct a review of the Probate and Older Adult Conservatorship functions of the Public Guardian, with a report back to the Board within 60 days.

I, FURTHER MOVE that the Board direct County Counsel to issue an opinion about the appropriateness of using Realignment funds to expand Probate services, and report back to the Board within 30 days.

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